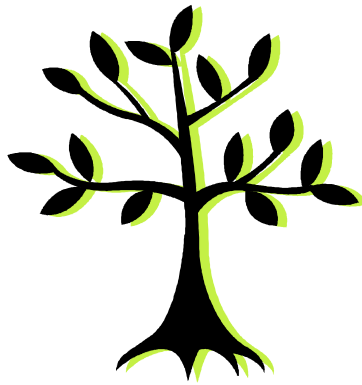


# **Community of Trees Action Plan**

**A short term strategic plan to preserve and proliferate  
trees in Louisville Metro**

**Draft 11/06/2007**



# **Inventory and Evaluation**

**Metro Gov't Staff Liaison** Adrian Camacho (Metro Parks)

**Scope:** Gather information to understand our urban forest and utilize this information to educate and inform our community leadership on the value of trees.

**Goal 1:** Quantify the current overall tree canopy in relation to years past.

## **Strategy**

- 1) Contract with American Forests to do an urban ecosystem analysis using their CityGreen program. Using remote sensing data for 2003, 1993, and 1983 compare changes in tree canopy over time.
- 2) Use a contractor to repeat the 1978 street tree inventory for the old city boundaries. Should be able to compare current tree count with historic aggregate.

**Goal 2:** Quantify existing urban forest structure and environmental benefits of urban forest in dollar amounts utilizing council districts.

## **Strategy**

- 1) Estimate these values by council district using the UFORE model (urban forest effects model) developed by the USDA forest service.
- 2) Estimate these values using the STRATUM model (Street tree management tool for urban forestry managers) based on existing park and parkway inventories.

**Goal 3:** Comparison of urban forestry programs across cities of similar size.

**Strategy:** Call comparable cities and ask them for information

# **Planting, Planning and Maintenance**

**Metro Gov't Staff Liaison:** Cindy Marquel (Metro PW)

**Scope:** Establish a collaborative committee with representation from all public agencies that plant trees.

**Goal 1:** First establish an immediate tree planting plan for Fall/Winter 2007/2008 and then develop a long range 3-5 year master tree planting plan for Louisville Metro.

**Strategy:** Establish a collaborative committee with representation from all public agencies that can meet to determine placement of public trees.

**Goal 2:** Provide resources that enable other private organizations to plant trees.

**Strategy:** Establish a tree planting grant for non-profits and neighborhoods to receive trees: Brightside TreeScape Grants

**Goal 3:** Develop creative solutions for public agencies to help ensure the proper maintenance of newly planted trees.

**Strategy:** Pilot a “gator bag giveaway” with newly planted street trees to assist with watering.

**Strategy:** Look for other strategies in best practice research from other cities.

## **Regulatory Oversight**

**Metro Gov’t Staff Liaison:** Cindy Marquel (Metro PW)

**Scope:** Ensure the protection of established trees by working with government agencies to establish acceptable regulatory oversight.

**Goal 1:** Stronger tree ordinances passed by Metro Council.

**Strategy:** Review existing ordinance and recommend changes that help further the goal of protecting trees.

**Goal 2:** Stronger tree protection written into the Land Development Code.

**Strategy:** Review the Land Development Code and recommend changes that help further the goal of protecting trees.

## **Education and Community Outreach**

**Metro Gov’t Staff Liaison:** Amelia Royalty (Metro Parks)

**Scope:** Launch an outreach campaign to elevate the importance of trees and the understanding of proper tree care.

**Goal 1:** Provide training opportunities that will lead to an increase in trained tree care workers (both volunteer and professional).

**Strategy:** Create a summer training program for youth through Youth build E-Corp. Expand to a year round horticulture education program.

**Strategy:** Ultimately we will take the lessons learned with E-Corp and develop a program for neighborhood volunteers similar to “Master Gardeners” who might then volunteer in parks or on their suburban city.

**Goal 2:** Change the mindset of people in the community from viewing trees as, at worst, a dangerous nuisance or, at best, an ornamental landscape addition to really understanding and appreciating the value trees bring.

**Strategy:** Establish a curriculum of education on the value of trees and how to care and maintain them. Start with those schools that will become the first phase of the Heuser grant for reforesting Louisville.

**Strategy:** Establish an outreach plan for the areas around all the Community of Trees plantings that includes door hangers and other ways to communicate the value of trees and the importance of their care and maintenance.

**Goal 3:** Create systems for tree care and proliferation that work on the neighborhood level.

**Strategy:** Neighborhood leader lecture(s), tree tour on neighborhood arboretum and other events. Develop instructional material to share with participants that include how to: develop a tree board, reach developers, reach seniors etc.

**Goal 4:** Make tree information easily accessible to all citizens

**Strategy:** Urban Forestry/ Community of Trees page on the metro web site; brochures and mailers sent to citizens.

## **Funding**

Metro Gov’t Staff Liaison: Jerika Amos (Brightside)

**Scope:** Pursue funding opportunities for the Community of Trees initiative

**Goal 1:** Fund the objectives spelled out in the action plan

**Strategy:** Establish funding priorities: 1)inventory/evaluation 2)plant trees 3)educate

**Strategy:** Research grant opportunities.

**Strategy:** Assemble grant writing team and submit requests.

**Outcome measures:** Track dollars raised

**Champion:** Andrew Crocker